

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

March 16, 2010

WHEREAS, over 150,000 babies are born in Los Angeles County each year and the maternal health and, more specifically, the mental health of women before, during, and after pregnancy is an issue of great concern to women and their families and is, therefore, of interest to the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, between 10 and 20 percent of new and expectant mothers are affected by Perinatal Depression and related mood disorders, and they may experience associated symptoms, which are often overlooked and heavily stigmatized because new and expectant mothers suffering from a perinatal mood disorder often feel confused, ashamed, and isolated; and

WHEREAS, many at-risk women may not seek help because they are not informed about Perinatal Depression and related mood disorders as part of their health care, because there is a lack of knowledge and use of screening and assessment tools, and because they are unaware of treatment and community supportive services for Perinatal Depression and related mood disorders; and

MOTION

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Molina _____

WHEREAS, heightened awareness and increased education among all residents in Los Angeles County regarding the incidence of Perinatal Depression is critical; Perinatal Depression and related mood disorders affect all categories of women and teenage girls regardless of their age, race, or income level; Perinatal Depression can have a profound impact on the family and significantly contribute to adverse developmental and behavioral outcomes and attachment disorders in the young children of affected women; and Perinatal Depression is highly treatable with therapeutic intervention such as medication, professional therapy and counseling, support groups and community support services including crisis hotlines.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Chief Executive Officer send a five-signature letter to Assembly Member Pedro Nava and Assembly Health Committee, expressing Los Angeles County's support of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 105, relating to support of Perinatal Depression Awareness Month.

I FURTHER MOVE THAT, hereafter, every May, Perinatal Depression Awareness Month is declared throughout Los Angeles County;

I FURTHER MOVE THAT Los Angeles County continue to work with the Los Angeles County Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce to facilitate increased awareness and education about Perinatal Depression and related mood disorders throughout the County, to explore and encourage the use of prenatal screening tools, and to improve the availability and access to effective treatment and support services for the promotion of maternal and infant mental health in Los Angeles County.

ALV/jp